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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 24 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under which the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations would be considered. It would be appropriate for this item to be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration during the main part of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter.

I request that a copy of this letter together with the explanatory memorandum be circulated to the States Members of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Penny **Wensley**

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Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

In its resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, the General Assembly made ad hoc arrangements for the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force, recognizing that a different procedure was required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget. Those arrangements took into account the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, and the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards the financing of peacekeeping operations.

Since 1973 there has been a marked increase in the number and significant changes in the nature of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In 2000 requirements for peacekeeping operations are expected to reach the level of $2.6 billion.

There have also been considerable changes in the economic capacities of the States Members of the United Nations.

The apportionment of expenses for peacekeeping operations continues to be governed by the ad hoc arrangements instituted in 1973. The arrangements did not include a review mechanism.

There is an urgent need to review these arrangements comprehensively.

To this end Australia requests the inclusion of an item on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

It is proper that this item be allocated to the Committee responsible for administrative and budgetary matters, the Fifth Committee, for consideration during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.